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Howard University Journal

Howard University

Vol. 6

WASHINGTON, D. C., JAN. 29, 1909

No. 14

The Athletic Mass Meeting

A mass meeting in the interest of Athletics was held in Andrew Rankin Chapel, Thursday night, Jan. 21, Mr. W. R. Wilson, President of the Association, presiding. After a few remarks by Mr. Wilson, several short addresses were given by the professors, all of which contained some very helpful advice.

Mr. Just, Treasurer of the Association, spoke of the system of electing managers and the necessity of adopting some means of regaining the confidence of the student body, suggested placing seats around the field and the necessity of the students rallying to the support of athletics if they are to be kept alive.

Dean Cook suggested a bowling alley as a paying proposition for the future.

Dean Miller spoke of the value of athletics in building up a sound body for a sound mind, and said that athletics is the most important side line about university activities, books of course holding the most important position.

Prof. Joiner did not agree with Prof. Miller that athletics are a mere side line in school work but said that it is as much the duty of the school to train the body as to train the mind. He said that we must have support for our athletics now for we cannot carry them on on future promises.

Prof. DeCatur spoke of corresponding with the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association concerning our becoming a member of the same so that we might be permitted to compete with the best schools in the country whenever we can produce the team.

Mr. Garnett Wilkinson spoke of the lax business methods and asked what is the attitude of the students who are attracted here by athletics and what we think will be the attitude of those to come. He said we must raise money and re-establish our credit before we attempt anything further.

Whit Bruce, Manager of the foot ball team for 1909, laid before the body the condition of the Association and emphasized the fact that "graft" had been going on in the management of our athletics, and mentioned the aim and desires of the present administration.

Mr. Wilkinson suggested passing the basket and gave five dollars to start the collection. Messrs DeCatur, Joiner, and Pelham followed his lead and several of the students gave one or two dollars each. In all \$25.02 was collected to be paid on the indebtedness.

It is a very discouraging fact that only about 150 students out of 800 were present. If we cannot have more spirit or interest we have poor hopes of raising any money.

The management has subscription blanks which it will distribute to the Presidents of the different classes and if we can get each student to subscribe twenty-five cents we can lift our debt.

Let every alumnus, every loyal Howardite, every friend and well wisher of Howard attend our earnest appeal. The Athletic Association is financially embarrassed and we must have money before we can begin spring athletics. If you are in doubt send the money to the Treasurer of Howard University for the Athletic Association.

C. B. CURLEY
Vice Pres. A.A.

Basket Ball

On last Saturday night Baltimore High School's fast team again entered the arena at True Reformers Hall, and again suffered defeat, this time at the hands of the terrible Techs.

Both teams played in excellent form, but the local boys had the advantage of the visitors in the height and size of their players, and this advantage soon began to show itself to the discomfort and distress of the Cannons. They played gamely, but vainly, for they could neither arrest nor entirely check the clever team work of the local five. Curtis and Shipley did excellent work for the Baltimore boys, but luck was against them and the best they could do for their team was to make one tossed goal each. Tryce, of the Techs, was not as lucky in this game as usual, and though he played well he seemed to be a little groggy; he did not move with the snap and vim which generally characterize his work. Burrell and Walker, of the Techs, merit special mention, and promise to be sure "goalers."

In the preliminary exhibition, the Young Spartans defeated the the Gondola Midgets, Fred Durrah's team, in a game full of interest and laughter. These Youngsters plainly showed that they possess the material for the making of great Basket Ball players, and they ought to be farther encouraged by their Manager and the Association.

Score:—Armstrong 11, Baltimore 5; Young Spartans 11, Gondola Midgets 5.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha will present Miss Virginia Moore in a violin recital Monday Night Feb. 1, '09 in Andrew Rankin Chapel. Admission, 25.

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HOWARD UNIVERSITY,

Washington, D. C.

Was the Athletic Association Justified in Its Action?

The action of the Athletic Association in withdrawing from the I. S. A. A. is a very serious step and commands a little more serious consideration than the hasty action of a band of hot headed students, frenzied with the idea of some supposed injustice and without the slightest idea of real conditions can give to it. If it were to stop with this year and affect only those who cast the vote, it would be a different matter and might be passed over unnoticed. But not so;—the action will affect our athletic relation for years to come and the reflection of rash action will not be cast upon a few reckless men but Howard must bear the name of being unportsmanlike and unendowed with the spirit of fair play.

That the Athletic Association had a perfect right to draw out of the I. S. A. A. must be admitted, but as their moral right

and as to the manliness of the manner in which the affair was conducted we are not quite so willing to concede. Nor will we even admit that any of the conditions advanced as causes are to be found outside the minds of those who have perpetrated and promoted the dissension which resulted in the harsh and unjustifiable step taken by the Association last week.

The main and only reason offered for the action is that the Athletic Association, or rather some few members thereof, are of the opinion that the members of the I. S. A. A. are using the students to make money for private purposes, which money, they claim, should come to the Athletic Association.

We will not comment upon the justice of the accusation without ground, and will pass over entirely any mention of the sportsmanship which accompanies a mercenary spirit in athletics and will proceed to examine the case and see if prevailing conditions in any manner justify either the action or the charge.

THE WORK OF THE I. S. A. A.

In order to promote athletics at Howard and among the colored schools of Washington and vicinity these men founded the Inter-Scholastic Athletic Association, put up their own money to build a track on Howard campus, worked up a meet, purchased a large cup and banners and medals;—all this they did with their own money and without aid from Howard or elsewhere. The first meet was a success but even then they had not gotten their money back. The second meet was not quite so successful, having failed to pay for itself by \$18.89. Last year the I. S. A. A. organized the basket ball association and conducted games weekly, these games soon became a great attraction and the association was able to close the season with one hundred five dollars in the treasury, but along came the spring track meet and failed to pay for itself and \$41.31 of the \$105.00 had to defray those expenses.

Now, if they had divided the profit among the different teams as Howard would have them do, fifty dollars or half the sum, would have come to the Hill and these men would have had to put up their own money again to defray the expenses of the next meet and to start basket ball this season.

Now, no one can deny that it would have been very unwise for the I. S. A. A. to empty their treasury; nor can any one refuse to admit that it was very unreasonable for the Athletic Association to expect them to.

HOW THEY AIDED HOWARD

The I. S. A. A. did not empty their treasury that Howard might get forty six dollars but they gave a dance and turned over the proceeds, amounting to seventy-one dollars, to the Athletic Association—a little bit better than fifty-two dollars and fifty cents, it seems. Does this look like making money off of us and not giving us anything?

CONCERNING A REPORT.

Some of the men try to justify the action on the grounds that the I. S. A. A. has never submitted to us any report of its financial standing. Now we probably have a right to know, but we also have mouths and writing materials and if we wanted a report, we might at least have asked for it. This the Athletic Association has never done. Yet it seeks to justify its action on the ground that no report has been received. The report made out with statements of the smallest items could easily have been secured upon the asking. So how can this justify any such action?

HOWARD THE GREATEST GAINER

Thus the I. S. A. A. has built Howard a cinder track, has made track athletics a reality, organized and promoted basket ball and in

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all these things Howard has been a greater gainer than any of the other schools. Besides the I. S. A. A. gave Howard \$71 at the close of the basket ball season, while it gave the other schools nothing and none of them asked for anything. Thus Howard has been the greatest recipient of the small blessings which the I. S. A. A. has had to distribute. And we are unable to find any justification for the action.

MANNER AND MANHOOD

Of course we are forced to admit the legal right to withdraw but we do feel that the principles of manhood would demand that we first try to come to some understanding with the I. S. A. A. and let them know our intention. But even this is not all we failed to do,—we had a team scheduled to play last Saturday night and we not only refused to let the team play but also neglected to notify the I. S. A. A. concerning the actions. This part we must not dwell upon for it involves the question of common courtesy and we fear that each and every man would lose his self respect if the gravity of this action were firmly impressed upon his mind.

We simply wish to say in conclusion that it is very evident that there is absolutely no justification for the action outside the sphere of "might" and we are convinced that the Association showed the height of ingratitude, to say the least, in its harsh and unfair treatment of its benefactors—the I. S. A. A.

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The large audience that filed Andrew Rankin Chapel Friday night, Jan. 22, to listen to Dr. Wilbur B. Davidson's lecture on Switzerland received a rare treat.

The lecture was illustrated with many of the richest views that the Land of Natural Scenery affords. In the course of the lecture the speaker paid high tribute to the patriotism and love of liberty so characteristic of every man who claims Switzerland for his home. He also spoke of their educational system which is so well organized that Switzerland now enjoys a larger percent of literacy than any other country on the globe. The view shown illustrated all forms of life among the Swiss and the

many famous sceneries for which the country is noted. Among them were peasants homes and schools, farm houses and aristocratic dwellings, pastoral scenes and many mountain and river scenes among which were the famous Matter Horn which still baffles mountain climbers, Mount Blanc, the highest of all mountain peaks; the great glacier known as the Sea of Ice; the Devil's Bridge, that famous piece of architecture and engineering constructed by the great Napoleon; Lake Lemau and the Castle of Chillon about which Lord Byron sung two immortal songs; Thorwaldsen Lion; the inclined Rail road on Mount Regli and the glorious sunset seen from the top of this mountain,—a sight which no tourist ever leaves Switzerland without attempting to see.

The lecture was without doubt the best illustrated lecture ever delivered around here and it is safe to believe that it has but few equals or superiors anywhere.

The audience was so pleased with the lecturer and he was so pleased with the attention they gave him that Dr. Thirkield was able to secure, in the presence of all, his promise to return soon and lecture on Shakespeare and His Haunts.

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On Monday, Jan. 23, at 3:30 p. m., before a large and enthusiastic crowd, the fast Medical basket ball team defeated the much lauded M. St. High School team by a score of seven to five. M. Street was outplayed but kept the Medics playing hard from whistle to whistle.

Capt. "Baby" Giles earned Nixon as substitute, and good he did for his fast and reliable forward, Curtis, for some reason, did not show up. Sub. Nixon was placed in left forward and the combat was on.

Cook played the greatest game of his career, and all who saw him in this game place him as one of the best guards in the city.

[Concluded on Page 6.]

I am indeed proud to make known the fact that my sister who was very ill at the time the last issue of the Journal was published, is much improved now. But fearing that to add my identity to your already disgraceful failure in your exams will be too great a mental strain, I will make known

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Personal

At the Mass Meeting the other night Profs. Joiner, DeCatur, and Wilkinson gave \$5.00 each to the Athletic Association. What did you give (Prof.)? A clear case of Hard Cash versus Hot Air. Mr. Robt. Pelham, an alumnus, gave \$2.00; and French Tyson, \$1.00.

Mr. J. D. Brown, Col. '09, makes a "Slowe" trip to Baltimore every Saturday. She seems to enjoy the basket ball games very much.

Mr. B. H. J. was handed one of the prettiest and most juicy lemons last Friday night at lecture that have ever been handed out, on the hill; and believe me, that's going some.

'Tis never too late to grind.

Do you believe that Beamon is serious? She thinks so at any rate,—the city queen.

J. Francis Dagler is to apply for a calling card to Miner Hall immediately after examinations.

I. R. Berry declares he is going to give "Fair Knight" the run of his life, that the latter has no claim which the former has to respect. This might be a real "classy" race.

Messrs Hilton and McMeekin visited the Business Manager a few days ago. You're next, please.

Just send thirty two-cent stamps, and we'll do the rest.

The Medical basket ball team is very elated over its new candidate, Mississippi Scott."

Common Profanity

"I'll be deviled!" said the ham.
 "I'll be switched!" said the train.
 "I'll be darned!" said the sock.
 "I'll be stumped!" said the tree.
 "I'll be blown!" said the horn.
 "I'll be hanged!" said the picture.
 "I'll be damned!" said the stream.

Societies

The Alpha Phi

That the Alpha Phi is determined to let nothing interfere with its meeting is evidenced by the action of last week. On account of the lecture scheduled at the meeting hour on Friday night the society convened at 8 o'clock Thursday night and a particularly interesting program was rendered before a large audience. The officers for the past semester have succeeded admirably in their efforts to revive interest and make the programs worth hearing.

The Kappa Sigma

The Debating Club is determined to get at least one debate this season. Since negotiations are off with Shaw and Fisk an attempt will be made to get either Lincoln or Wilberforce. The disputants are at work on the prize debate.

The Pestalozzi-Froebel

After an interesting Edgar Allen Poe program on last Friday afternoon the society enjoyed a remarkable treat in the form of a lecture by Dr. L. B. Moore on "A Trip to Europe."

Dr. and Mrs. Moore will entertain the society this evening at their residence on 13th St.

Mirth out of season is a grievous ill.

There is one thing that detracts greatly from our Sunday Vespers. We take the liberty to call attention to it and feel quite sure that the evil will be remedied forthwith. Some of the members of the choir are a little too much inclined to frivolity and allow themselves to be drawn into merriment at the slightest occurrence. Now probably such would not be noticed from a person in the congregation but it shows up glaringly in a choir member, because all eyes are centered upon them and every turn they make is readily observed by the whole congregation. We hope there will be no more of that.

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If it were passed when 'tis passed, then 'twere well
It were passed honestly; if the cramming for examination
Could cover up the consequence and secure
With each exam a "pass," that this exam
Might be the know-all and pass-all here.
But here upon the brink and verge of graduation,
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases
We still have reason here; that we but teach unrelenting
instructors

Who being taught return
To punch out students: this flim flam scholarship
Commends the ingredients of our weary minds
To our own consideration. Exams are here in deed and
trust;

Strong ought we be against such mental strain, then too as
honest students

Who should against these thundering steeds, lock the door
Not guide the reins ourselves. Besides these exams
Have been made so easy, have been
So clearly outlined by the Profs. that their leniency
Will plead like demons, trumpet-tongued against
The sweep-stake riding of their cribbing-down
And honesty like a helpless orphan outcast
Begging for bread, or humanity's cause, wasted
Upon the sightless wings of the ethereal sky
Shall blow the cowardly deed in every eye
That tears shall quench the fire. I have no whip
To rattle the slats of my pony, but only
His flowing mane, which o'er leaps his neck
And falls on the other side.

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To My Senior Classmates

The "pony" is my helper. I
shall not flunk.

He maketh me to have good
recitations, he leadeth me to much
glory.

He raiseth my standing, he
leadeth me in the path of know-
ledge for credit's sake.

Yea, though I sleep over my
books, I fear no punching, for he

art with me. His words and his
phrases they comfort me.

He prepareth my lessons in spite
of the Prof. He crowneth my
head with fame, my marks crowneth
high

Surely applause and honor shall
follow me all the days of Howard
life, and the "pony" shall dwell
in my room forever.

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Also made de bobtail for de rabbit.

DUNBAR

Mr. A. Derricks, "the pitch-fork orator of the Christian Endeavor," who with his power of deauniciation and narrow vision, bids fair to deserve the name of B. Ben Tillman, delivered a stirring and bitter philippic against the Christian Endeavor Society in its meeting last Saturday night. The speaker said that the society was lifeless and falling into chaos, that the members were untrue to their pledge, labelled it, "a Lovers' Meeting," and expressed his belief that it should be abolished.

Now, probably, some of the things Mr. Derricks said are slightly tinted with an element of truth, but we wonder if such a speech is not more harmful than helpful. We have never heard of any evangelist who could curse and denounce people into religion. It must generally be a sort of coaxing and persuading process and then it is generally quite a task. In fact there are very few convictions that men can be dogged into and religion might be said to stand last of all things else. This young man undoubtedly has more enthusiasm than any other member of the organization, yet we feel safe in saying that with all his fervor and enthusiasm he does the Endeavor more harm with his monthly invectives than all the coldest attendants taken together would be able to do in a lifetime. The members, instead of being inspired to action were aroused to resentment and everyone would doubtless have departed feeling pretty sore had they not been acquainted with the psychology of religious fanaticism. But being thus intelligent, they went home saying, "Father forgive him for he knows not what he does."

[continued from page 3.]

"Skybo" Young played his usual fast game and was robbed of a basket shot from a most difficult angle.

Cuff and Giles played their usual fast and hard game. Giles, playing the "great Richardson" to a standstill, not allowing him to even shoot at a basket, shot the first basket of the game causing the team to take on more vigor.

Old Nixon, the "Prep Medic," played a great game throwing two of the most difficult baskets of the season. Today "old Nick" wears a rather "Anatomic smile."

The Reading Rooms in Clark Hall are being refurnished by the Y. M. C. A. and are to be opened next week. The daily papers and all the leading magazines will be available and all students are extended a cordinal invitation to make use of them. For the present the rooms will be open from 6 to 7-30. and Mr. Geo. W. Hines, the efficient secretary of the Association will be in charge.

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